

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Jeff Whitney
State Forester

Arizona State Forestry Division

Office of the State Forester

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 771-1400



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Bob Celaya
Forest Health Specialist
Arizona State Forestry Division
o) 602.771.1415
f) 602.771.1421
BobCelaya@azsf.gov

PINYON NEEDLE SCALE EGGS HAVE BEEN LAID IN THE SEDONA AREA

Sedona, Arizona, 19 February 2015—Pinyon needle scale, a complex native insect, was recently identified in the Sedona and Village of Oak Creek areas mainly on transplanted pinyon pines. However, it has now been found on native pinyon pines growing in the Uptown Sedona area.

Based on its widespread distribution in Prescott and continuing expansion in the Payson area, the insect has the potential to spread widely throughout Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek.

Due to the high temperatures recently experienced in the area, female pinyon needle scales have already emerged from the stage on the needles and have laid most of their eggs. Their life cycle is about a month ahead of schedule.

Brown needles toward the back of the branch dotted with the remnants of the scale are very noticeable on infested pinyon pines and may be mistaken for drought.

It is very important that homeowners in both areas check their pinyon pines for the presence of the insects, and to prevent reinfestation and spread to other trees on their properties.

The very large egg masses look like dirty cotton and are mainly located at the base of small pinyon pines. These egg masses should be collected as soon as possible before the eggs hatch and disposed of properly.

On larger trees, egg masses can also be found at the base, on the trunk, at branch junctures, and on the sides of larger branches.

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Control of this stage of the insect on larger trees involves the following steps:

Step 1: Wash the eggs off branches and trunk with a garden hose equipped with a high pressure nozzle and allow eggs and litter to dry for one to two days.

Step 2: Rake out eggs, litter, and debris from under the tree.

Step 3: Dispose of the eggs in plastic garbage bags. Raking may not be practical if heavy brush, rocks, or other material is present under the tree. However, washing the eggs off the tree is still recommended.

Removal of the eggs from your pinyon pines will be simplified if you have already treated your vegetation for fire prevention reasons.

Unless there are local water restrictions, consider slow, deep, and infrequent watering of your infested pinyon pines around your home starting immediately; use either a properly installed and maintained drip system or soaker hose placed around the dripline of the tree. Continue watering until significant precipitation occurs.

Refer to the following Cooperative Extension watering brochure for proper watering of your trees: <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1298.pdf>.

Fire prevention treatment information: <http://www.firewise.org/usa-recognition-program.aspx>

For further information about this new insect in the Sedona area, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester in Phoenix at (602) 771-1415 bobcelaya@azsf.gov or John Richardson, Forest Program Coordinator at 602-771-1420 JohnRichardson@azsf.gov or Chris Erickson, Forest Program Specialist 602-771-1407 chriserickson@azsf.gov.

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